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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

December 21, 1995

HAND DELIVERED

Mr. William F. Caton
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222
Washington, D. C. 20554

Re: In the matter of Amendment to the Commission's Rules regarding a Plan for Sharing the Costs of Microwave Relocation, WT Docket No. 95-157.

Dear Mr Caton:

Enclosed herewith is one (1) original, and 5 (five) copies of our reply to the comments submitted to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in WT Docket 95-157.

Sincerely,

COMSEARCH

Christopher R. Hardy
Director, Microwave and Satellite Services
Enclosure

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Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

In the matter of

Amendment to the Commission's)
Rules Regarding a Plan for Sharing) WT Docket No. 95-157
the Costs of Microwave Relocation) RM-8643

To: The Commission

REPLY COMMENTS OF COMSEARCH

Comsearch hereby respectfully submits it's reply in response to the comments submitted to the Notice of Proposed RuleMaking (NPRM) in the above captioned proceeding.

Comsearch is an independent engineering firm specializing in spectrum management of terrestrial microwave, satellite, and mobile telecommunications systems. In this role, we provide consultant services to all classes of users including those regulated under Part 94 and 24 of the Rules. Our experience working in both the microwave and mobile communications industries provides us with a unique perspective on the issues surrounding the NPRM. While the comments filed covered a number of issues raised in the NPRM, our reply will be limited to the areas concerning "interference standards" and the role of the "clearinghouse".

Interference Standard and Trigger for Obligation

Many commenters supported the use of the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) Bulletin 10 as the standard for determining interference potential and consequently the "trigger" for cost-sharing obligation. AT&T Wireless, GTE, PCS PrimeCo, and STV proposed an alternative procedure utilizing a distance method or "proximity threshold" rather than predicted interference as the trigger point.¹

Comsearch supports this proximity threshold proposal. While potential interference triggers could effectively be employed to determine obligations, the complexities of various methodologies and interpretations to arrive at those triggers would complicate and protract any agreement of cost sharing responsibility. Cost sharing will be better facilitated for all concerned by the use of a simpler and less interpretive methodology. In addition to minimizing potential disputes between cost-sharing parties, the use of the proximity threshold trigger would substantially lessen administrative burdens in any "clearinghouse" process. Instead of submitting volumes of comprehensive and potentially "sensitive" system data, as would be required using Bulletin 10 standards, PCS licensees would only need

¹ See comments of AT&T, pages 7-9, PCS PrimeCO, pages 12-13, GTE, pages 6-8, and STV, pages 25-26.

to submit geographic coordinates of base stations and their operating frequency range.

The Role of a Clearinghouse

Comsearch agrees with commenters who support the concept of a clearinghouse for the administration of PCS relocation cost-sharing. However, while the concept of a clearinghouse received general consensus, many concerns were raised over how this entity would best function. PCIA states that the clearinghouse should be a single entity and urges the Commission to designate PCIA as that entity.² In their comments, API , UTC, and others urged the Commission to require a neutral third party administer any such clearinghouse.³ UTC further stated that the clearinghouse should be "a neutral body distinct from the PCS trade organizations." Other commenters expressed concerns that the clearinghouse be designed, maintained and operated in such a way to guarantee the protection of confidential information.⁴ Still others support the limited use of a clearinghouse as a means of coordinating relocations done pursuant to private

² See comments of PCIA, page 39.

³ See comments of API, page 11, UTC, page 16, GO Communications, footnote 6, The Southern Company, page 11.

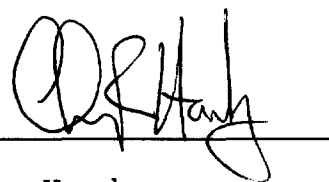
⁴ See comments of American Association of Railroads, page 13 and Southern California Gas, page 11.

agreements and those done pursuant to the rules adopted by the FCC.⁵ ITA urges the Commission to solicit proposals from all entities who may be interested in serving as the clearinghouse.⁶

We agree that if a clearinghouse is to be created, it should be industry-supported in order to function effectively. We disagree that the clearinghouse must necessarily be a non-profit entity. The status of non-profit does not automatically imply cost effective, efficient or non-biased services. Comsearch echoes the sentiments of ITA that the most effective way to deal with the various concerns raised by the commenters is for the Commission to provide an opportunity for all interested entities to compete for the right to serve as the clearinghouse.

Respectfully Submitted,

COMSEARCH

Prepared by: 

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⁵ See comments of PCS PrimeCO, page 11 and GTE Service Corporation, page 12.

⁶ See comments of ITA, page 8.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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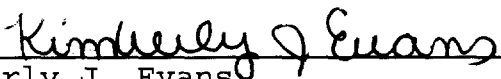
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